

Governor Robert McClelland Residence,
Monroe, Monroe County, Michigan.

HABS No. Mich. 17

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58-MONRO

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Michigan

Historic American Buildings Survey
F. Orla Varney, District Officer
313 Garfield Bldg., Detroit, Mich.

GOV. ROBERT McCLELLAND RESIDENCE
Monroe, Monroe County, Michigan.

58 MONROE

Owner Mrs. Jeessie K. Bumpus

Date of Erection: 1830 (Approximate)

Architect Unknown

Builder John Anderson

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: Two

Materials of Construction: Hewn oak frame on field stone foundation. White wood clapboards and cornice. Interior - white wood trim except in dining room which is black walnut.

Other Existing Records: Recorder of Deeds Office, County Building, Monroe. Mrs. Hanson, 25 E. Elm Street, Monroe, Grand-daughter of Benjamin Dansard.

Additional Data: This is house and lot #2 of Anderson plat, platted April 12, 1827. John Anderson and wife sold to Ebenezer Howes July 14, 1835. Howes sold to Robert G. Clarke April 25, 1837; Clarke to Robert McClelland about 1840; McClelland to Benjamin Dansard July 19, 1853; Dansard to K.G. Bumpus August 23, 1917. (Letter from Jessie K. Bumpus, present owner and occupant, October 21, 1936).

Robert McClelland, the most notable of the former owners, came to Monroe in 1833. He went into partnership, practicing law, with James Q. Adams for about two years and then in 1835 opened an office and practiced alone and with great success. He was a member of the Constitutional Convention of Michigan in 1835; a member of the State Legislature in 1838-;840 and 1843 and Speaker of the House in the latter year. A member of Congress for three successive terms (twenty-eighth, twenty ninth and thirtieth Congress) from 1843 to 1849; member of the Constitutional Convention in 1850; the first Governor for the short term under the

Additional Data: (Continued)

new Constitution for 1852. He was elected in 1852 for the term of two years and went into office as Governor, January 1st, 1853. On the inauguration of Franklin Pierce as President, March 4, 1853, McClelland was appointed Secretary of the Interior in which office he continued until the end of Pierce's Administration, March 4, 1857. This was his last public office. He had moved to Detroit prior to his election as Governor and resided there until his death August 30, 1880. (Wing's History of Monroe).

Benjamin Dansard had been in this country before, returned to Paris, met there Mise Boyez whom he married and returned to this country with the Boyez family and settled in Monroe. Mr. Boyez, Mrs. Dansard's father, built a house on the West Front Street in 1830, which has since been torn down. He had been an officer in Napoleon's army.

(Reference: Mrs. Hanson, Grand-daughter of Benjamin Dansard).

The west wing of the house was added by Benjamin Dansard.

F. Orla Varney
F. Orla Varney, District Officer
June 30, 1937.

DW 9/15/57